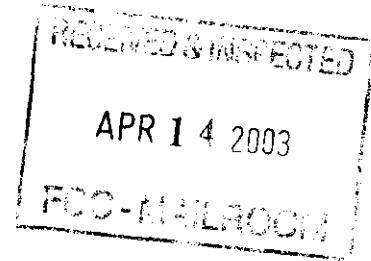


EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission 445 12th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Mr. Orlando Burgos
PO Box 144
Oakland, NJ 07436-0144



Re: MB Docket No. 02-277, MM Dockets No. 01-235, 01-317, 00-244

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to express my support for strong media ownership limits. Diverse ownership and competition are essential to promote the free flow of ideas that are essential to a vibrant democracy.

As you have noted, the FCC's current biennial review of its media ownership rules is one of the most sweeping regulatory actions in FCC history. The outcome of this review will shape the way Americans get news, information, and entertainment for years to come.

Given the magnitude of this rulemaking, I am concerned by the findings of a recent Pew Center poll that 72 percent of Americans know nothing about the FCC's media ownership review.

This rulemaking raises many questions about the current media environment and the implication of changing media concentration protections. These include:

- What will the impact be on localism, diversity, and competition of TV, cable, radio, and Newspapers if we eliminate or reduce ownership limits, given our history with radio consolidation?
- What effects have recent media mergers, radio consolidation, and TV duopolies had on the personnel and resources devoted to news and public affairs programming?
- How do consolidation and common ownership affect the focus on issues important to minorities? What are the effects on children?
- How are advertising rates affected by consolidation? Will it become more expensive for candidates to purchase ads to communicate with voters?

These and other questions must be answered before the Commission reaches any decision. The Commission must not rush to judgment before it has thoroughly answered these questions. Further, I encourage the Commission to conduct additional public hearings to facilitate public participation in this proceeding.

The nation's airwaves are the people's property. The FCC must preserve rules that protect and advance diversity of ownership, encourage competition and localism, and prevent the domination of the "media" in the hands of a few companies. Nothing less than the future of American democracy is at stake.

Sincerely,

Orlando Burgos

Cc: Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, Abernathy, and Martin

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